[Shri Anand Sharma]

denying the journalists and the newspaper employees their due. So, this clubbing is a very laudable feature of the Bill.

With these words, Sir, I support the Bill, compliment the Government, and again appeal to the Minister to consider the remaining demands. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Shri Pramod Mahajan.

RE. MOTION ON SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Sir, before my colleague, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, starts, I would like to seek a clarification, because the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here. Now that we know that the Panchayati Raj Bill is not going to be voted today there is another very important business listed, which is a discussion on a statement to be made by the Minister of External Affairs on Sri Lanka. We do want to know at what time the Minister is going to make the statement so that we can regulate the rest of our business.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): That is... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I want to know whether there is going to be a debate subsequent to it and how much time is going to be allotted for it.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, it is not our practice to allot time for any statement made by the Minister. It is only clarifications that are followed after a statement is made.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Let us know the time at which...

SHRI M. M. JACOB: And the rule is that when a Minister wants to make a statement he writes to the Chairman two hours before making a statement. So far, I don't think anything has been received in the Secretariat. I will find out.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): It is not a statement, it is a Government Motion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is not listed here as a statement by the Minister. It is listed as a Motion. The honourable Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, I am sure, knows the distinction between a statement and a Motion. What is listed here is a Motion. We want to know when this Motion is going to be taken up and how much time you are allotting for it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): He has to inform two hours in advance.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: It has not come so far.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, there are two different points altogether. The point is that the List of Business for today lists a Motion standing in the name of the Minister for External Affairs. The Government is coming forward with a Motion. The honourable Minister for Parliamentary Affairs says he is going to make a statement. These are two totally different things. If already it is listed in the List of Business that it is going to be a Motion, we want to know at what time it is going to be taken up and how much time is allotted for it.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I mentioned it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Do me the courtesy of letting me finish.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Last time I mentioned it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Do me the courtesy of letting me finish. Perhaps, then you would be better able to answer what I am asking.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I thought you finished twice!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: No, I havn't finished yet. These are two totally different matters. Is the Government coming forwarded with a Motion? Then, we would like to know the time when and the time allotted for its discussion. If the Minister is coming forward with a statement, as the Miniser of Parliamentary Affairs says, then are we to assume that this Motion is now withdrawn and no debate would take place? Even then, you would still like to do it. Nevertheless, at what time is the statement going to be made? We must regulate the rest of our business. I appeal to you, Sir, to extract a correct and definite reply from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Sir, the Sri Lanka issue was raised in this House earlier, and Government expressed its interest in bringing a discussion in some form or other. So, we included it as the Motion, as the agenda item. (*Interruptions*).

You know, Mr. Malaviya, there were negotiations, discussions going on. We never wanted to embarrass either Government. We wanted to see that some positive results come out of the talks. That is why we were waiting, waiting for positive results out of the discussions.

Now I am in touch with the External Affairs Minister, and I will come back to you as soon as I get a definite reply about the time when he will be able to bring it and how much time he will be able to give.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): It is not in national interest to discuss it today. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Nobody wants national Interest to be jeopardised. But who would be responsible for it if it is listed here? (*Interruptions*).

WORKING JOURNALISTS AND OTHER NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989—Contd.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यद्यपि यह विधेयक अपने आप में अधूरा प्रयास है, फिर भी यह सही दिशा में प्रयास होने के कारण मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं तथा पूर्ण समर्थन करता हूं मुझ इस बात का आनन्द है कि कल रात केन्द्र सरकार को... (*व्यवधान*)...

उप सभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी) : महाजन जी, आप जारी रखिए।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : बीच में शर्मा जी चले गये, उनका भाषण सुनने के बाद मुझे यह लगा कि कल रात अचानक केन्द्र सरकार को पत्रकारों के महत्व का साक्षात्कार हुआ और उन्होंने कार्य सूची में परिवर्तन करके इस मुद्दे को सबसे प्रथम लाया। चलो, देर में सही, लेकिन दुरुस्त साक्षात्कार हुआ। इस लिये मैं इस विधेयक का समथन करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं यह बात स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि इसमें दो राय नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान में स्वतंत्र पत्रकारिता है, जिस पर सारे देश को गर्व है, लेकिन उसके साथ यह बात भी मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान की स्वतंत्र पत्रकारिता यह कांग्रेस सरकार की दया पर निर्भर नहीं है। दुनिया की कोई भी पत्रकारिता किसी भी सरकार की दया पर और उनके प्रावधानों से निर्भर नहीं होती। अगर इनका वश चले तो जैसा मेरे पूर्व सहयोगी ने कहा कि समाचारपत्रों पर दबाव लाने का जो प्रयास इन्होंने आपात स्थिति